



Water Trough, Surf Highway 45

c.1880

Use	Water trough	Historic Value	2 out of 5
Materials	Concrete	Architectural Value	- out of 4
NZHPT Registered	Not registered	Technical Value	1 out of 2
Valuation No		Symbolic Value	1 out of 3
Legal Description		Rarity	1 out of 2
		Townscape Value	- out of 2
		Group Value	- out of 2
		Overall Cultural Heritage Value	5 out of 20
Reference	Su1		

Description

The water trough is of concrete construction set into the side of the road near the now closed Riverdale Dairy Factory.

History

Built in the early 1880's when the Waimate Plains were opened for settlement, the spring fed trough was put in to water the horses on their way to and from the Riverdale Dairy factory. Local residents have not been able to name the initiator or the exact date of the trough's installation. It would also have been used for watering sheep and cattle as before the introduction of motorised stock transport, there was an almost continuous movement of sheep and cattle from Opunake to the Patea Freezing Works or the Hawera railhead.

The plaque on the water trough was presented to the South Taranaki District Council by Anderson Memorials & Stone Co Ltd of Hawera in 1991 reads:

"This water trough is one of the few remaining relics of the pioneer days in this area. It is believed to have been erected for the convenience of horses taking milk to the nearby Riverdale Factory. But was a popular stopping place for all horse and carriage traffic travelling the coast road."

The trough would also have been a useful source of water to cool boiling radiators in the early days of motoring.

Today, the water trough has almost been covered over by the realignment and widening of the road. Earlier it stood well clear of the carriageway. The Riverdale factory closed in 1973.

Architect

Not known.

Builder

Not known.

Sources

Arthur Fryer, Hawera Central Heritage Working Party
Keith Newland, former Stock and Station Agent

Date

January 2000